



Discovery Science reveals Australian Technology as BEST carbon outcome for waste - 22 Dec. 08

In *Ecopolis*, a currently airing Discovery Channel series, Daniel Kammen - Nobel-Prize winning Professor of Energy at the University of California, Berkely - takes a look at the 20 most visionary world-saving innovations out there, then narrows this group down to the five most likely to succeed and picks the top solution that the world should focus on and urgently implement.

BEST Energies Australian developed pyrolysis technology, for the production of biochar and green energy from waste organics, is selected in the top 5, having been the 'clear winner' of the carbon friendly waste management solutions.

Adriana Downie, Technical Manager of BEST Energies says 'The BEST pyrolysis technology is such a great solution because it sequesters carbon beneficially in agricultural soils, whilst providing waste management and green energy solutions'. She adds that 'We don't have to wait until 2050 to reap the benefits of this technology. BEST Energies have demonstrated that the technology, with the right policy and price signals, can be rolled out immediately'.

NSW Department of Primary Industries senior research scientist Dr. Lukas Van Zwieten also features in the series. NSW DPI has been working with BEST Energies to assess the agronomic and greenhouse gas mitigation benefits of their biochar product, with assistance by the NSW State Government, through its Climate Action Grants program. Van Zwieten says 'Biochar products offer the hope to not only restore the carbon levels of Australia's depleted soils, but to also improve crop productivity'. Van Zwieten believes that the benefits of biochar they have demonstrated scientifically through their trials will have long lasting benefits, and hopes that this is a way farmers can make a significant contribution to meeting greenhouse gas mitigation targets.

This project has been assisted by the New South Wales Government, through its Climate Action Grants Program.

Prof. Kammen states that '[biochar technology] helps solve the problem of our waste supply but also works us into a situation where we are thinking differently about agriculture'. 'Finding places to store carbon to sequester it is a rare commodity that pushes biochar into the lead and makes it a clear winner'.

Prof. Kammen is chief science adviser for the Barak Obama presidential campaign and has advised several foreign heads of state as well as non-governmental organizations. And if that isn't all, Dr. Kammen is also a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and is founding Director of the Renewable and Appropriate Energy Laboratory (RAEL).

Scientific think tank, The Centre for Alternative Technology, assessed each technologies capacity to reduce the carbon footprint of a future mega-city. They found that BEST Energies pyrolysis technology had the carbon saving potential of a massive 21% of the cities footprint.